

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 3 September 2009 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter of 9 June 2009, I have the honour to hereby inform the Security Council of the findings and recommendations of the electoral needs assessment mission sent to the Republic of Burundi following the request for electoral assistance from President Pierre Nkurunziza for the elections to be held in 2010.

Following consultations with a wide range of national and international stakeholders, the needs assessment mission determined that the existing conditions are globally propitious for the holding of credible elections. One of the main indicators is that the members of the National Independent Electoral Commission enjoy the trust of the Government and the leaders of all political parties and civil society, and that they are perceived by all as impartial and independent.

Nevertheless, the operational needs of the National Independent Electoral Commission led the needs assessment mission to recommend the setting up of a United Nations electoral support programme through which it would benefit from technical expertise in the planning and implementation of various electoral operations. The above programme will be managed by the United Nations Development Programme Office in Burundi, in close coordination with the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs, and funded through a multi-donor trust fund.

The needs assessment mission also recommended that, in the light of the logistical needs of the National Independent Electoral Commission, a tight electoral timeline and the scope of the tasks ahead, the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) be prepared to provide, if required, specific logistical support to the Commission at crucial phases of the electoral process, such as the transportation of polling materials in remote areas. Accordingly, the needs assessment mission recommended that the current transportation and air assets of BINUB be strengthened to allow the mission to provide such support.

In the exercise of his mandate, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1858 (2008), to facilitate and promote dialogue among national and international stakeholders, in particular in the context of the upcoming elections, my Executive Representative has set up two mechanisms to coordinate the strategic, technical and financial support of international partners to the National Independent Electoral Commission.



I support the initiatives already undertaken by my Executive Representative on the ground and the recommendations of the needs assessment mission, and believe that the timely provision of the required technical and logistical assistance to the National Independent Electoral Commission could greatly contribute to the quality of the 2010 elections.

(Signed) **BAN** Ki-moon
